

Coast Guard, DOT

§ 27.215

Subpart B—Fire Protection Measures for Existing Towing Vessels

§ 27.200 What are the requirements for an existing towing vessel?

If your existing towing vessel operates as described in § 27.100(a), you must ensure that it complies with §§ 27.205 through 27.245 of this part.

§ 27.205 What are the requirements for a general alarm on an existing towing vessel?

(a) By October 8, 2001, you must ensure that your vessel is fitted with a general alarm that:

- (1) Has a contact maker at the operating station that can notify persons on board in the event of an emergency.
- (2) Is capable of notifying persons in any accommodation, work space, and the engine room.
- (3) In the engine room and any other area where background noise makes a general alarm hard to hear, has a supplemental flashing red light identified with a sign that reads:

Attention

General Alarm—When Alarm Sounds or Flashes Go to Your Station.

- (4) Is tested at least once each week.
- (b) You or the operator may use a public-address (PA) system or other means of alerting all persons on your towing vessel instead of a general alarm, if—
 - (1) The PA system is capable of notifying persons in any accommodation or work space or the engine room;
 - (2) It is tested at least once each week;
 - (3) It can be activated from the operating station; and
 - (4) It complies with paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

§ 27.210 What are the requirements for fire detection on an existing towing vessel?

By October 8, 2001, there must be a fire-detection system installed on your vessel to detect engine-room fires. It may be a new system, an existing fire-detection system, or an existing engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability), if it is oper-

able and complies with this section. You must ensure that—

(a) Each detector, each control panel, and each fire alarm are approved under 46 CFR subpart 161.002 or listed by an independent testing laboratory; except that, if you use an existing engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability), each detector must be listed by an independent testing laboratory;

(b) The system is installed, tested, and maintained in line with the manufacturer's design manual;

(c) The system is arranged and installed so a fire in the engine room automatically sets off alarms on a control panel at the operating station;

(d) The control panel includes—

- (1) A power-available light;
- (2) An audible alarm to notify crew at the operating station of fire and visible alarms to identify the zone or zones of origin of the fire;
- (3) A means to silence audible alarms while maintaining indication by visible alarm;
- (4) A circuit-fault detector test-switch; and
- (5) Labels for all switches and indicator lights, indicating their functions;

(e) The system draws power from two sources, switchover from the primary power source to the secondary source being either manual or automatic;

(f) The system serves no other purpose, unless it is an existing engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability); and

(g) The system is certified by a Registered Professional Engineer, or by a recognized classification society (under 46 CFR part 8), to comply with paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section.

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§ 27.215 What are the requirements for internal communication on an existing towing vessel?

(a) By October 8, 2001, you must ensure that your vessel is fitted with a communication system between the engine room and operating station that—

- (1) Is comprised of either fixed or portable equipment, such as a sound-powered telephone, portable radios, or other reliable method of voice communication, with a main or reserve power